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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hideyuki IRIYAMA

Group Art Unit: 1774

Serial No.: 09/778,096

Examiner: Kimberly T. Nguyen

Filed: February 7, 2001

For: DECORATIVE SHEET FOR IN-MOLD DECORATING INJECTION
MOLDING, DECORATIVE MOLDING AND IN-MOLD
DECORATING INJECTION MOLDING METHOD

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection in the Office Action mailed February 10, 2003 in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 to 13, and 16 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Brooks et al. '654 in view of newly cited Matsumoto et al. '595 further in view of Enlow et al. '988 is respectfully traversed. (Claims 14 and 15 are pending also but stand withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention.)

The Examiner acknowledges that the primary reference (a reference of record and applied previously) does not disclose or suggest [the use of an acrylic-modified polyolefin resin comprising at least an acrylic monomer and/or prepolymer grafted on chains of a polypropylene resin.] Applicant submits that the reference also does not teach or suggest [the use of an acrylic-modified polyolefin resin generally as specified in at least claims 1 and 12.]

Matsumoto et al. '595 is cited to show a laminate containing among its components an acrylic-modified polyolefin resin prepared by the graft polymerization of acrylic monomers onto polypropylene resin chains. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Brooks et al. '654 and Matsumoto et al. '595 "because it is known that such a layer [an acrylic-modified polyolefin resin layer] has good thermal adhesion to a wide variety of plastic, polyolefin, and other materials and has good thermal processability."

Applicant again points out that the present invention involves a finding that [the use of an acrylic-modified polyolefin resin as a bonding layer] (capable) of adhering to an injected-molded molding permits bonding to a decorative sheet in the injection-molded

molding, even in a hot state.] See the specification at page 3, lines 9 to 28 and the previous mention thereof in the second full paragraph on page 6 of the Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.111 filed November 7, 2002.

Matsumoto et al. '595 describes a thermoplastic resinous composition that is soft and flexible permitting formation of a variety of materials. The disclosure at columns 3 and 4 of the reference regarding various modified polyolefin or olefin copolymers relates to the use thereof in the context of the Matsumoto et al. '595 invention, which requires a variety of other components as clearly shown from a review of the claims of the patent, [and does not teach or suggest the present invention.] The mention in Matsumoto et al. '595 of "good thermal adhesion" (see, for example, line 3 of the Abstract) regards a property of the overall "soft and flexible thermoplastic resinous composition" and is not identified as a particular property of the modified olefin polymer component. Moreover, applicants argued in the last response that the working and comparative examples clearly establish the patentability of the instant invention (see the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the last response) and no

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mention is made those arguments in the most recent Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that the record supports patentability here.

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Enlow et al. '988 is cited to show a decorative film comprising a pigmented color coat but does not overcome any of the deficiencies of the Brooks et al. '654 and Matsumoto et al. '595 references. The rejection should be withdrawn.

OK
The Examiner is once again requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of applicant's priority document; that paper was filed July 9, 2001.

In view of the foregoing arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

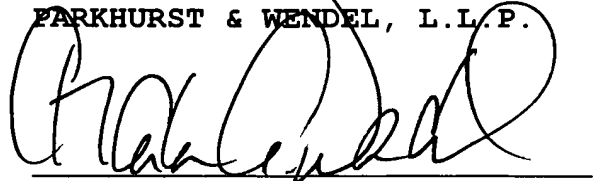
If the only barrier to allowance is the presence of non-elected claims 14 and 15, the Examiner is authorized to cancel

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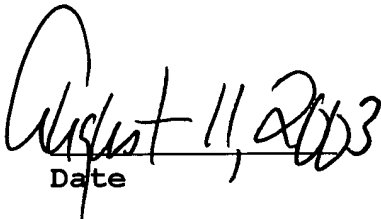
those claims for that express purpose. The Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned should any other change be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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